

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087872
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:DMWINN:SLB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
DOD/DSAA:LTGENGRAVES
DOD/DSAA:COL. WFIFER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH
INFO SECDEF WASHDC 0080
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T STATE 087872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM FOR YEMEN

REF: (A) USMTM RIYADH MSG DTG 221227Z MARCH 78:
(B) SANA 1418; (C) STATE 82359; (D) STATE 85282

1. THOUGHTFUL REFTELS A AND B CORRECTLY POINT OUT THAT
EFFECTIVE COORDINATION WITH SAUDIS DESIGNED TO CORRECT
CURRENT SHORTCOMINGS IN MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM FOR YEMEN
MUST TAKE PLACE IN SAUDI ARABIA. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDA-
TIONS OUTLINED PARA 6 REF A PROVIDE APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR
UNDERTAKING THIS EFFORT WITHOUT COMMITTING USG TO NEW
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PROGRAMS. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES OF COURSE THAT USMTM
RECOMMENDATIONS IN SUPPORT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS COULD
LEAD TO MINOR ADDITIONAL SALES. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY
JIDDA, USMTM RIYADH, AND DAO SANA ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED
WITH THESE ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH EXCEPTION
OF POINTS (PARA 6A(4) AND 6C(2), REF A) NOTED REF C, AND
POINTS (PARA 6B(1) AND (2), REF A) NOTED REF D. SUG-

GESTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF VIABLE PLANS FOR F-5 PILOT TRAINING, TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT (PARA 6B(2), REF A) WILL HAVE TO AWAIT SAUDI DECISION ON AIRCRAFT.

2. AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION THAT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO KNOW SAUDI VIEWS ON EXTENT OF SOUTH YEMENI THREAT, AS WELL AS YAR ARMOR AND AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONDING TO THIS THREAT, RAISES QUESTION OF DEGREE TO WHICH U.S. SHOULD SEEK TO DIRECT SAG AND YAR THINKING ABOUT FUTURE YAR MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. AS USMTM AND SANA INDICATE, RECORD THUS FAR INDICATES THAT FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS LIE AHEAD IN YAR'S EFFORT TO CHEW WHAT IT HAS ALREADY BITTEN OFF. IN COMING MONTHS, WE EXPECT TO BE IN DIALOGUE WITH SAG AND OTHERS IN AREA, INCLUDING YAR, ON OUR ASSESSMENT OF RADICAL THREAT TO PENINSULA POSED BY SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH YEMEN AND HORN OF AFRICA. IN THIS PROCESS WE WILL LOOK TO EMBASSIES SANA AND JIDDA FOR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED IN FUTURE IN TAILORING YAR/SAG/USG TRILATERAL MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP TO MEET YAR'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS AND TO SERVE MUTUAL SAUDI-U.S. INTEREST IN SECURITY OF SOUTHERN ARABIA.

3. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPLEMENTING PRESENT PROGRAM IN YAR.
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IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS REF A BY SAUDIS IS FAR FROM ASSURED, AND WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION BY USG IF PROGRAM IS TO APPROACH FIVE-YEAR GOALS ORIGINALLY SET OUT FOR IT. IN ADDITION, OUR NEXT PRIORITY WOULD SEEM TO BE MOVING AHEAD WITH F-5 PROGRAM WHENEVER SAG GIVES GREEN LIGHT. VANCE

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